

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 17. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1-6. (Previously canceled)

7. (Previously amended) A package for cylindrical articles, fabricated by wrapping a plurality of cylindrical articles assembled in parallel in a heat-shrinkable film, and heat-shrinking said film to fix and retain said articles,

wherein said film has a slit on a side of said package along a boundary between said adjacent articles, and said film around said slit is curved in such a manner as to conform to outer circumferential surfaces of said cylindrical articles located adjacent to said boundary; wherein said package includes an adhesive layer formed at least on inner surface of said film on a periphery of said slit.

8. (Previously canceled)

9. (Original) The package for cylindrical articles in accordance with claim 7, wherein said adhesive layer is made of a heat sensitive adhesive agent.

10. (Original) The package for cylindrical articles in accordance with claim 7, wherein said slit is formed in said film on each side of said package.

11. (Original) The package for cylindrical articles in accordance with claim 7, wherein said slit is dimensioned within a prescribed range determined so that each individual cylindrical article does not fall out of said package even when said package is dropped.

12. (Original) The package for cylindrical articles in accordance with claim 7, wherein said package includes a perforation that connects a slit formed on one side of said package to a slit formed on the other side of said package.

13. (Original) The package for cylindrical articles in accordance with claim 7, wherein said slit is formed in said film on one side of said package, and a perforation connecting both ends of said slit is formed in said film on the other side of said package.

14. (Previously amended) The package for cylindrical articles in accordance with claim 7, wherein said film is in the form of a sheet and forms a welded portion attaching end portions of the sheet to wrap said articles together, and said welded portion is positioned on one side of said package.

15. (Original) The package for cylindrical articles in accordance with claim 7, wherein said film is in the form of a tube.

16. (Previously canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A composite battery package in which a plurality of unit packages, each fixing and retaining a plurality of cylindrical batteries assembled in parallel in a first heat-shrinkable film, are fixed and retained in parallel in a second heat-shrinkable film,

said first heat-shrinkable film having a slit on a side of said unit package along a boundary between said adjacent cylindrical batteries, and said first heat-shrinkable film around said slit is curved in such a manner as to conform to outer circumferential surfaces of said cylindrical batteries located adjacent to said boundary; wherein said unit package includes an adhesive layer formed at least on inner surface of said first heat-shrinkable film on a periphery of said slit,

wherein at least one pore is formed in said second heat-shrinkable film in a portion thereof corresponding to an end portion of a boundary between said unit packages.

18. (Previously amended) The composite battery package in accordance with claim 17, wherein there is at least one of said pores provided at each end portion of said boundary on each side of said unit package.

19. (Original) The composite battery package in accordance with claim 17, wherein said first heat-shrinkable film has a higher melting point than that of said second heat-shrinkable film.